



**Educational Service District 105**  
**33 S. Second Avenue, Yakima, WA 98902**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DATE:** July 19, 2011

**TO:** White Swan news media

**RE:** **White Swan selected for substance abuse prevention initiative**

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The White Swan Arts and Recreation Community Coalition has been selected to participate in a state program that will provide the area with substance abuse prevention services for the next five years. The White Swan group will receive targeted services for programs, trainings, and a student assistance professional who will help keep youths and young adults free of alcohol and other drugs.

White Swan is one of 19 communities statewide selected as part of this Prevention Redesign Initiative that was launched on July 1 through the Washington State Dept. of Social and Health Services' Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery. This initiative focuses on providing community- and school-based prevention resources designed to decrease drug use rates and the related consequences associated with youth substance abuse. Measures will examine 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade 30-day alcohol use, improvement of academic performance, and reductions in juvenile crime.

The initiative is anticipated to provide the White Swan group with \$57,150 in funding for each year of the grant, with a second community in the area to be selected to share in funding for next year. DBHR will expand the Prevention Redesign Initiative in the next five years to identify approximately 50 high-need communities in the state of Washington.

"Factors such as economic deprivation, troubled families, substance abuse and crime were considered in selecting White Swan for services," said Susan Martin, Yakima County Prevention coordinator at ESD 105.

Superintendent Henry Strom of the Mt. Adams School District said: "Our current rates of youth substance abuse, youth attendance at school along with our active community coalition created a readiness to benefit from these services."

According to the 2010 Healthy Youth Survey data for Yakima County, 20% of 8<sup>th</sup> graders and 31% of 10<sup>th</sup> graders in the county reported using alcohol in the past 30 days.

DBHR director David Dickinson added: “Our goal in redesigning and targeting our state prevention services is to leverage enough resources in the highest-need communities to achieve greater reductions in substance abuse and the harm it causes. Community leaders are prepared to use these resources to help more young people succeed, and to improve the health and safety of their community.”

The White Swan Community Coalition began in 2006 with an effort to reduce underage drinking. Last year the group expanded its work to include in preventing other areas of teen substance abuse after receiving a national Drug-Free Communities Grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration.

The White Swan Community Coalition is comprised of parents, grandparents, youths, Yakama Nation Tribal partners, educators, law enforcement, faith leaders, civic volunteers, business owners, and substance abuse treatment professionals. Individual interested in taking part in the Prevention Redesign Initiative are invited to the next coalition meeting on September 6 at 6 p.m. at the Methodist Church in White Swan.

The coalition has been using the [www.StartTalkingNow.org](http://www.StartTalkingNow.org) website for tips for parents and neighbors on preventing underage drinking. For additional resources or more information on the coalition, contact Susan Martin at (509) 454-3127.

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**About ESD 105:**

ESD 105 supports 25 public school districts and 23 state-approved private and tribal schools in South Central Washington. The agency serves the expressed needs of those schools in coordinating and conducting cooperative programs to benefit the approximately 60,000 K-12 students who are served in Kittitas and Yakima counties and portions of Grant and Klickitat counties. As one of nine ESDs in the state, ESD 105 carries out liaison activities between local school districts, the Washington State Office of Public Instruction, and the State Board of Education.